

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for reducing visual artifacts in reconstructed images, the method comprising:
 - a) determining edge energy for each pixel in the image;
 - b) comparing the edge energy for each pixel to a threshold, producing an edge map;
 - 5 c) using a distance transform to produce a filter map;
 - d) applying a filter to each pixel in the image, wherein the filter applied is dependent upon a filter map value for each pixel; and
 - e) producing an output value for each pixel in the image.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the edge energy is determined using a Sobel filter.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the edge energy is determined used a Prewitt filter.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the edge energy is determined using a derivative of Guassian filter.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the edge energy is determined using a normal filter.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein pixels with an edge energy above the threshold are labeled as edge pixels and the corresponding value set to 1 in the edge map.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold is selected to be the minimum of a user-defined maximum threshold and half of the maximum edge energy within a current image block.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the user-defined maximum threshold is 184.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein boundary pixels in the edge map are set as edge pixels.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein the steps of using a distance transform, applying a filter to each pixel in the image, and producing an output value for each pixel in the image of are not performed if the threshold is less than a predefined minimum value.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the distance transform is the minimum value of a user-
25 defined maximum distance and a distance of a current pixel to a nearest edge in the edge map.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein edge pixels in the edge map are given a filter map value of zero.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the user-defined maximum distance is 3.
- 30 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the filter further comprises a two-dimensional low pass filter.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the filter further comprises two one-dimensional low pass filters.

